

Spring 2001

Update

Wetland Function Assessment Project

A periodic bulletin on a Washington State effort to develop methods for assessing the performance of wetland functions

Columbia Basin Methods Completed

The Columbia Basin Assessment Team and project staff have completed the *Methods for Assessing Wetland Functions – Volume II Depressional Wetlands in the Columbia Basin of Eastern Washington, Parts 1 and 2*. The methods are hot off the press and are ready for distribution and use.

The methods include numeric models for assessing the functions in the following types, or subclasses, of depressional wetlands: freshwater long-duration, freshwater short-duration (including vernal pools), and alkali wetlands.

The document for the Columbia Basin is formatted like that for the lowlands of Western Washington. The methods are divided into two parts. Part 1 contains the important background information about the methods: who was involved, the wetland classification used, how reference wetlands were used in developing the methods, how to apply the results, etc. It also includes the three methods, one for each wetland subclass. Each method includes numeric equations for up to 13 individual functions.

Part 2 contains the detailed procedures for collecting the data needed to complete the assessments. Data forms for each wetland subclass are provided. It also provides guidance for determining if multiple assessment units are needed within a contiguous wetland boundary. Finally, a diskette containing spreadsheets is provided to automatically calculate the numeric results (functional indices) using data collected in the field.

You can purchase a copy of the methods for \$33.00 (if delivery is within Washington) and \$34.00 (if delivery is outside Washington.) The cost covers shipping and handling. To obtain a copy, contact the Department of Printing, P.O. Box 798, Olympia, WA 98507-0798, or at their Website at www-application1.wa.gov/printers/storefront.htm

You can also obtain the methods free of charge by downloading files from the WFAP web page and printing them. The document is divided into numerous files, because of its size, so that you may print it yourself. You can find the methods for the Columbia Basin and the Lowlands of Western Washington at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wfap

If you have questions about the Columbia Basin methods contact Tom Hruby at (360) 407-7274 or email THRU461@ecy.wa.gov. If you have questions about downloading the methods from the web page, contact Tim Schlender at tisc461@ecy.wa.gov.

Training in the Columbia Basin

Now that the methods for depressional wetlands in the Columbia Basin are completed, we need to know who wants training in the methods. Many of you were partially trained during the development of the methods. We want to know who else wants training. Your response will help us decide whether or not there is enough interest to justify planning and conducting training.

To provide feedback, please fill out the form inserted with this Update and return it to us by May 31, 2001. You may also respond by sending an email to Teri Granger or calling (360) 407-6857. We will put any that respond on a mailing list for notification of training sessions if we offer them.

In the past we have provided three kinds of training: a one-day update for those who were trained during method development (an update training will be conducted in Columbia Basin), a 5-day training for those that apply the methods in the field (the “user”) and a 1-day workshop for those that receive wetland reports and make decisions about wetlands (the “decision-maker”). The user’s training for Columbia Basin is appropriate for any wetland expert that needs to assess wetland functions in the Basin. The training would be similar to those conducted in western Washington,

and includes two days of fieldwork. It would cost about \$400 for government employees and \$600 for non-government employees. The training most likely would be held in the fall 2001.

The decision-makers workshop is appropriate for government and tribal staff and other groups who make decisions about wetlands as a part of their routine work tasks. Consultants that work in the Basin may want to attend the decision-makers workshop as an introduction to the methods to determine if they want to attend the 5-day technical training.

We can offer one of two types of training for decision-makers in the Columbia Basin. The first type would be one day long and would focus on the methods. The one-day workshop would provide an introduction to the methods



and their application, with classroom practice applying method results to a fictitious project. There would be no field component and it would probably cost \$75.

The second type would be two days long and include a discussion of other wetland topics. A two-day workshop might cover such topics as wetland identification and delineation, rating, compensatory, mitigation, and regulation, as well as some information on the wetland function assessment methods. There may be a field component and it would cost about \$150. Either the one or two-day decision makers workshop would be held in the spring of 2002.

Technical Training Planned for Western Washington in June 2001

The Washington Department of Ecology is offering training in *the Methods for Assessing Wetland Functions – Volume I Riverine and Depressional Wetlands in the Lowlands of Western Washington*. The training is for technical staff – local, state, federal agencies, tribes, consultants, environmental groups and others who will be applying the methods in the field. The training will last 5 days.

The training will be held on June 11-15, 2001 at Ecology Headquarters in Lacey, WA with field sites in the Olympia area. The cost is \$400 for government employees and \$600 for private employees.

This is an intensive class that includes classroom presentations and discussion, as well as fieldwork at two sites. We provide comprehensive training in the technical background needed to understand the methods. During the training, we discuss each datum needed to complete the methods. We cover calculation of functional indices using mathematical equations. We also address application of function assessments in a regulatory context.

The function assessment methods are rapid when applied in the field. However, they are fairly detailed, and accurate results depend upon standardized application and careful attention to data collection procedures. In other words, training is recommended for accurate application.

Space is limited and pre-registration and payment by mail is required. Classes often fill and have a waiting list. Fill out the registration form on the attached page and send it, and payment, to: Department of Ecology
Function Assessment Training
Attn: Cashiering
PO Box 5128
Lacey, WA 98509-5128

The deadline for registration is May 14, 2001

List of Trainees Now Available

At the request of a number of organizations, we have compiled a list of those who have completed technical training sessions for the “Methods for Assessing Wetland Functions.” The training sessions to date have covered the application of function assessment methods for riverine and depressional wetlands in the lowlands of Western.

Those who have completed four out of the five days of a training session are included on the list. Some of those who were trained during development of the methods are also included on the list. They either attended a one-day update that covered changes made to the final methods or were accompanied by project staff during fieldwork on projects not related to the development of the methods. These people have training equivalent to the five day session.

The Department of Ecology highly recommends that those who apply the methods only do so after training. Training is important to properly interpret and apply the methods especially when collecting data in the field. Training is important so results are accurate, consistent, and reproducible.

The list is available on the web page or by land mail. See the box for addresses. The list will be updated as additional training sessions are completed, including those in the Columbia Basin. Contact Tom Hruby at or (360) 407-7274 if you have questions about the list.

List of Corrections Now Available

We are happy to announce that a document listing changes and clarifications is finally available. In the last Update, we announced that changes and clarifications to the “Methods for Assessing Wetland Functions: Riverine and Depressional Wetlands in the Lowlands of Western Washington, Parts 1 and 2” would be available on our web page in September 2000. Posting the

document with the changes was delayed due to staffing constraints.

The document is available on our web page or by surface mail. See the box below for addresses.

The changes and clarifications include general comments, as well as changes to specific pages, specific data, and parts of the data forms. Examples of the changes and clarifications include abandoning the use of acre or hectare points, changing terms and introducing definitions for the presence of surface water, correcting typographical errors on some of the calculation pages (the spread sheets are correct!), correcting errors on specific pages in Parts 1 and 2 (including proper placement of a table on the decomposition classes of logs), and clarifying minimum size thresholds for specific data. The vast majority of the changes on specific pages deal with clarifications in the terms for surface water.

The document also includes a table listing size thresholds and whether small, noncontiguous patches can be combined to meet the size threshold. Staff provided replacement pages for those that contain especially important changes. A new appendix, assisting the user with observations regarding soil, is also included in the document.

Wetlands Function Assessment Project Information on the Web:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wfap

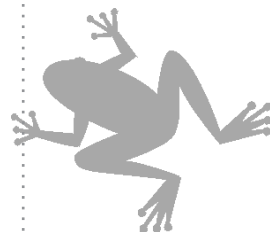
E-mail Contacts:

Teri Granger: tgra461@ecy.wa.gov

Tom Hruby: thru461@ecy.wa.gov

Mailing Address:

Teri Granger
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600



Do You Want Training in the Assessing Wetland Functions in the Columbia Basin?

Return Questionnaire by May 31, 2001

Please check all that are of interest to you and for which you would have time and money.

- ☐ I would be interested in attending a 5-day technical training in the methods for depressional wetlands in the Columbia Basin in fall 2001 at a cost of \$400-600. The five days include two days of fieldwork.
- ☐ I would be interested in attending a 1-day workshop for decision-makers in spring 2002 at a cost of \$75. The workshop would provide an introduction to the methods and their use in making wetland decisions.
- ☐ I would be interested in attending a 2-day workshop for decision-makers in spring 2002 at a cost of \$150. The workshop would provide a brief introduction to the methods and cover other wetland topics such as identification and delineation, rating, mitigation, and regulation.

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Teri Granger
WA Department of Ecology
SEA Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98404-7600

TRAINING REGISTRATION FORM

**Lowlands of
Western WA
User's Training**

Complete a separate registration form for each person attending. If you register, but are unable to attend, an alternate may attend in your place. Refunds will ONLY be issued if the training session is cancelled. If you have questions or concerns regarding this information, contact Mary Lynum at (360) 407-6908 or mlyn461@ecy.wa.gov

Government/Corporate purchase orders and checks are accepted, but credit cards are not. Make checks payable to: Department of Ecology. Your form will be returned if payment is not included. Send the registration form below and payment to:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Cashiering
PO Box 5128
Lacey, WA 98509-5128

You will receive a confirmation, an agenda and instructions after your registration has been processed.

Deadline for Registration is May 14, 2001

WETLAND FUNCTION ASSESSMENT TRAINING

Date: June 11 – 15

Location: Lacey, WA

Cost: Please check one

- ☐ \$400 (Government Employee)
- ☐ \$600 (Other)

Registrant Name:

Company Name:

Mailing Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone Number: Fax:

Email Address:

Revenue Code: 001-0311-EA2K-HH